

NEWENT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Newent Town Council Meeting held on Monday 29th May 2019 at the Market House, Newent at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Mrs C Howley, E Heathfield, Mrs S Marcovecchio, Mrs K Draper, Mrs M Duncan, A Jones, Mrs G Moseley, Ms C Birkan, Mrs W Odhiambo, A Ralph

Also present – The Clerk and 4 members of the public

(Cllr Mrs Howley chaired the meeting in the absence of the Mayor)

Public Participation Session: No items raised.

(Cllrs Mrs Moseley and Mrs Odhiambo joined the meeting at this juncture)

02.1 Apologies – Cllrs Mrs Davies, Mrs Wadley and Beard.

02.2 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Moseley and Jones declared a pecuniary interest in the item regarding the allotment paths due to being allotment tenants.

02.3 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th May 2019

Resolved: The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 13th May 2019 were approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

02.4 Clerk's Update and Matters Arising

Joe Meek Statue – In response to the email confirming the Council's suggestion regarding the Joe Meek Statue being seated but fully supported, the following was received

"Many thanks for your email, this is wonderful and I am delighted on the news.

I will contact our sculpture to enquire if this will affect the cost, hopefully it will reduce the cost being as we'll not be needing the plinth".

Outside bodies representation – Organisations have been notified of any changes to the Council's representatives.

Allotment plot 85 – This plot has now been strimmed and split and offered to new tenants.

Lake charges – The following response was received from the Young Angling Project;

"Thank you for informing the Young Anglers Project of Council's decision.

As you expect we are very disappointed that charges will remain in place for those young people aged 16 and under, especially as Council received grant funding from the Angling Trust in support of encouraging youth angling and improving lake facilities.

It is unfortunate that it would appear Council have singled out certain groups or users of this wonderful community owned facility.

The decision is noted and given that both The Council Cup and Police Shield were site specific ie the Town Lake, their future would appear to be in jeopardy.

Does this also mean that YAP would be charged for using the Lake?

Perhaps Council would wish to comment whilst we approach the Angling Trust, EA, PCC and Glos Constabulary for their responses especially recognising a marked increase in antisocial behaviour in Newent. That said, YAP will discuss Council's decision at its next meeting".

Commercial lease agreement for office accommodation – Davies and Partners have been instructed as requested and are liaising with Glebe Chapel.

02.5 Finance

02.5.1 To approve accounts to be paid

Payments made since last meeting		£
Wages		7717.83
Barclaycard Transactions:		£
Fasthost Internet		6.00
Fasthost Internet		13.19
J Parkers		34.89
Direct Debit/Standing Order/BACS payments April:	Payment method	£
Lex Autolease	DD	603.44
Public Works Loan Board	DD	946.02
Lloyds Bank	DD	5.00
British Gas	DD	1109.79
British Gas	DD	4.85
British Gas	DD	59.40
British Gas	DD	35.49
Payments to be considered:		
Ford Fuel Oils	15102	320.63
Ermin Plant	15103	115.16
Buildbase	15104	21.94

Forest Products Ltd	15105	158.76
Water Plus	15106	65.63
K Noble	15107	37.80
GAPTC	15108	362.15
Network Connections	15109	525.00
Young Anglers Project	15110	2965.00

Resolved: The above expenditure is approved, to a value of £14,992.81. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Mrs Marcovechhio, All in favour.

02.5.2 To approve Direct Debit/Standing Order and BACS payment schedule

Resolved: The following schedule is approved for 2019/20;

Payee	Payment Method	Amount
Barclay Card	Direct Debit as required	Variable
Lloyds Bank – Bank Charges	Standing Order – monthly	£5.00
Public Work Loan	Direct Debit – twice yearly	£946.02
Lex Autolease	Direct Debit – monthly (L200 & Cabstar)	£603.44 (there may additional charges to cover vehicle tax increases)
British Gas	Direct Debit – monthly	Variable
Salaries	BACS	Variable
HMRC PAYE (monthly)	BACS	Variable
GCC Pensions (monthly)	BACS	Variable

Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Jones, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

02.5.3 Budget update

No issues were raised. **Resolved:** The budget update was approved. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllrs Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Jones, All in favour.

02.6 To consider response required to correspondence/consultations received

02.6.1 Newent Angling Club – Request to hold fishing matches at the Lake

Resolved: The request to hold fishing matches on 29th September 13th October, 10th November, 8th December, 5th and 26th January 2020, 16th February and 18th March were approved.

Record of Voting: Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Jones, All in favour.

02.6.2 Forest of Dean District Council – Invitation to a community led housing event on Monday 10th June at 10 am at the West Dean Centre

Cllrs Mrs Odhiambo and Mrs Moseley agreed to attend.

02.6.3 A request for a memorial tree to be planted at the Lake

A discussion took place regarding this item and concerns were raised regarding the variety of tree to be planted and location.

Resolved: The Estates Team advise where a memorial tree could be sited and get advice on species of trees that should be considered for this application and for future requests. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllrs Mrs Moseley, Seconded Cllr Jones, All in favour.

02.6.4 GAPTC – Invitation to the AGM on Saturday 20th July at 10.30 am at Highnam Community Centre

Cllrs Heathfield, Mrs Moseley and Mrs Odhiambo agreed to attend.

02.6.5 Gloucestershire County Council – Consultation on public path diversion order for footpath GNE9

Resolved: No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Jones, Seconded Cllr Mrs Howley, All in favour.

02.6.6 Alt Arb Ltd – Request permission to undertake recreation/aerial rescue tree climbing practice at the Lake or Recreation Ground

A lengthy discussion took place and many concerns were raised about this activity being undertaken on public land. **Resolved:** Permission is not granted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

02.7 Planning

02.7.1 Planning applications to be considered

P0667/19/FUL 18 Vauxhall, Newent

Erection of a two storey side extension. Demolition of existing single storey extension. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

P0053/19/Discon – Black Dog Inn, Church Street, Newent

Discharge of conditions 05 (Cycle facilities), 07 (Construction Method Statement), 08 (sound insulation), 09 (lighting), 12 (Biodiversity enhancement scheme), 13 (Root Protection Areas) and 14 (foul and surface water drainage) of planning permission P0831/18/FUL. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

P0692/19/COU – 10 Broad Street, Newent

Change of use from retail (A1) to a nail salon (Sui Generis). **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 8 in favour, 2 abstentions.

P0777/19/TCA – Porch House, 35 Church Street, Newent
20% reduction of x 1 Willow Tree at 35 Porch House. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, 9 in favour, 1 abstention.

P0763/19/FUL 6 Vauxhall, Newent

Erection of a single storey front porch. **Resolved:** No objection. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Duncan, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

02.7.2 To note planning decisions

PERMITTED/CONSENT

P0388/19/FUL – 40 Glebe Road, Newent

Erection of a single storey rear extension including alterations to parking area and associated works. Demolition of existing rear extension

P0039/19/Discon – Glebe Chapel, Glebe Close, Newent

Discharge of condition 12 (Construction Management Statement) relating to planning permission P1746/17/FUL

P0024/19/Discon – Land North of Ross Road, Newent

Discharge of condition 10 (construction method statement) of planning permission P0969/14/OUT (revised construction method statement)

P0343/19/FUL – Unit Rear of 32 Ford House Road, The Scarr, Newent

Change of use of land to B2 (General industry), erection of extension to existing workshop and erection of an office and store building with associated works

P04248/19/FUL – 28 Vauxhall, Newent
Erection of a single storey front extension with associated works.
Demolition of conservatory

WITHDRAWN

P0442/19/LD1 – Roses Country Fayre, 52 Ledbury Rd, Newent

Application under Section 191 to establish whether use of caravan on site is lawful

Application is withdrawn and no further action will be taken on it.

02.8 Estate Management

02.8.1 To receive the Estate supervisor's report and agree any actions

The staff were commended for the number of jobs completed and for the fantastic job in clearing the planter outside Jillings.

Cllr Mrs Moseley gave an update on the town maps and due to a number of problems it has not progressed. It was agreed that it should follow the same format of the leaflets.

Cllr Mrs Howley stated that the final draft of the leaflet was being produced.

The Estate Supervisor's report was noted.

02.8.2 To consider allotment paths report

(Cllrs Mrs Howley, Mrs Moseley, Jones and Ms Birkan left the meeting whilst the following item was discussed)

(Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio chaired the meeting for this item)

A number of repair options for the footpaths had been considered and a discussion took place. Edging boards were also discussed as the Allotment Association have stated they will not be installing them in the future. **Resolved:** The footpaths are infilled and grass seeded over a 2 year programme at a cost of £419.39 + VAT per year and the edging boards are inspected by Cllrs Mrs Marcovecchio and Mrs Draper and any concerns are reported to the Clerk, with replacements being considered on a case by case basis. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Marcovecchio, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

02.8.3 Request to erect bunting

Cllr Mrs Howley asked the Council if the bunting could be erected again this year to brighten up the town. Complete Utilities will be contacted in the first instance regarding a cherry picker.

Resolved: The bunting is erected at the end of June for 5 weeks at a cost of £506.00 + VAT. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Mrs Draper, All in favour.

02.8.4 To consider erecting pink bows in support of Newent Cricket Club's pink days in aid of Against Breast Cancer

Newent Cricket Club are organising events over two weeks, commencing 1st June and shops have been asked to participate by having pink window displays. The Council were asked to consider participating by erecting pink bows on the Market House and flower tubs. Cllr Mrs Draper offered to donate £10.00 towards the purchase costs. **Resolved:** Pink bows are erected for 2 weeks on the Market House and flower tubs at a cost of a maximum of £50.00. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded Cllr Jones, 9 in favour, 1 against.

02.9 To receive and note Internal Audit report

A very good report was received and the financial processes were found to be robust.

The following suggestions were made:

The asset register to be presented to Council annually; the reserves are low and the Council needs to increase these; the Recreation Ground Trust minutes to be published on the website (although it is not a legal requirement); the type/nature of interest to be recorded in Minutes.

It was also noted that the District and County Councillors should be encouraged to attend meetings or submit reports. A discussion took place regarding this and it was agreed that letters should be sent to the Leaders of the County and District Councils asking for their support (District letter to be sent after election).

The report was noted and the Council agreed to action all the suggestions.

02.10 To complete and approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19

The Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 was considered and affirmed. **Resolved:** The Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 was approved and signed. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Mrs Draper, Seconded Cllr Heathfield, All in favour.

02.11 To complete and approve the Accounting Statement for 2018/19

The Accounting Statement for 2018/19 was reviewed and adopted.

Resolved: The Accounting Statement for 2018/19 was reviewed and Adopted. **Record of Voting:** Proposed by Cllr Mrs Howley, Seconded by Cllr Mrs Duncan, All in favour.

02.12 To consider quotation for bird control services

(Two members of the public joined the meeting at this juncture)

Several comments were made including: It would just be moving the problem on to somewhere else; culling would be a better option; chasing the birds away would be pointless; landlords should get involved; it would be better to destroy the eggs; using birds of prey will create an area where pigeons will not want to be; there will be minimal impact on town; there is a chance that other birds may get caught; there are a number of homing pigeons in the area.

Resolved: The quotation is accepted, however, the publicity and notifying the local pigeon clubs needs to be well managed and the Clerk is to discuss the timings with the contractor. **Record of Voting:** Proposed Cllr Jones, Seconded Cllr Mrs Moseley, 6 in favour, 1 against, 3 abstentions.

02.13 To receive committee and representative reports

Cllr Mrs Moseley	Planning training
Cllr Mrs Draper	Christmas Lights Cttee meeting 17 th June
Cllr Mrs Duncan	Patients Forum
	Flu vaccination clinics will take place on 5 th & 12 th October and FODDC will be asked to suspend parking charges
Cllr Ms Birkan	Community Safety Partnership
Cllr Heathfield	Meeting with Highways Manager

02.14 Notices and information

The Council has been awarded Quality status in the Local Council Award Scheme, which is a great achievement.

Planting of the town's tubs will be taking place on Friday from 10 am.

The next NDP meeting is scheduled for 13th June.

The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed 9.10 pm.